

December 11, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai,
Chairman The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

For Nantucket and many rural communities across the United States PEG Access has become a vital link to our community. It allows people and non-profits and others to communicate and build democracy. Peg Access is the only opportunity for “the people” to participate on a community level that is not offered on broadcast TV or big cable.

This local presence enables the residents of Nantucket to create and watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state it work for everyone.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Dan Driscoll